

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. McMillan on 05/27/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 27 is amended as follows:-

Claim 27: An electrochemical system comprising a plurality of cells;

a measuring device including a plurality of inputs connected across the plurality of cells to generate voltage and current signals indicative of voltage and current characteristics of the plurality of cells, wherein the measuring device provides a plurality of primary channels for the voltage and current signals, there being one channel for the voltage across each cell, and wherein the measuring device includes a splitter for separating out at least the DC components of the voltages across the individual cells from the primary channels, the splitter having first channels as outputs for the DC components;

a current supply/draw means comprising a modulator for superimposing modulated current values through the plurality of cells;

an external load connected to the plurality of cells in parallel with the current supply/draw means for drawing a DC current from the plurality of cells wherein the DC current is drawn from the plurality of cells during both the rest time period and the burst time periods; and

a controller for controlling at least one system operating condition based on the voltage and current characteristics received from the measuring device the controller being connected to the measuring device.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13, 15, 17, 18, 20-25 and 27-32 allowed

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For Claim 1: primarily, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest in the claimed combination: an external load connected to the plurality of cells in parallel with the current supply/draw means for drawing a DC current from the plurality of cells wherein the DC current is drawn from the plurality of cells during both the rest time period and the burst time periods;

For Claim 17: primarily, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest in the claimed combination: connecting an external load to the plurality of cells in parallel with the current supply/draw means, wherein the external load draws a DC current from the plurality of cells during both the rest time period and the burst time periods;

For Claim 27: primarily, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest in the claimed combination: an external load connected to the plurality of cells in parallel with the current supply/draw means for drawing a DC current from the plurality of cells

wherein the DC current is drawn from the plurality of cells during both the rest time period and the burst time periods;

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMUEL BERHANU whose telephone number is (571)272-8430. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on 571-272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Adolf Berhane/
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/S. B./